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REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the Office Action of May 19, 2006 and the references both cited and applied. In response, selected claims have been amended for purposes of clarification, and the claim amendments should be considered in conjunction with the following arguments in support of patentability. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 5 and the subject matter of claim 21 into claim 19.

New claims 24 -27 have also been added. Support for claims 24 and 26 may be found in Fig. 14, page 14 line 7 and page 21 lines 25-34. Support for claims 25 and 27 may be found in figure 5 and on page 19 lines 15 to 34.

Thus amended claims 15 and 19 relate to a conveyance system for conveying a particulate substance from a removable particulate storage component, the conveyance system comprising, inter alia,

- an interconnect element for releasably interconnecting the conveyor element and the outflow aperture of said valve member for the flow of particulate substance through the outflow aperture to the conveyor element

and

- a support component configured for releasably engaging said removeable storage component such that the storage component is oriented so that the valved wall member at least partially forms the bottom of the so engaged storage component.

The applicant submits that the cited US patent no. 3,046,869 does not teach the subject matter of amended claims 5 and 19. In particular this reference does not teach a support component for releasably engaging a removable storage component.; the cited reference also does not teach an interconnect element for releasably interconnecting the conveyor element and the outflow aperture.

In referring to the cited reference (see figures 1 and 3) the examiner makes reference to the hopper 200 (as being the storage component), sleeve 210 (as

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being the interconnect element), the tube 232 (as being the conveyor element) and the discharge tube 206 (as being the outflow aperture). The examiner further indicates that the sleeve 210 releasably interconnects the tube 232 to the discharge tube 206.

The applicant submits that the cited reference, at column 5 lines 12 to 27 indicates that the hopper 200 and the sleeve 210 are connected to one another by the bracket 218, lever 220 and the pin 222. It is also indicated at column 5 lines 29 to 32 that the sleeve 210 and tube 232 are connected to each other by pins 230. Thus this reference teaches that the hopper 200, the sleeve 210 and the discharge tube 206 are in fact connected to one another. The applicant submits that the cited reference therefore does not teach that an interconnect element may releasably interconnect the conveyor element and the outflow aperture as required in amended claims 5 and 19.

The applicant further submits that the cited reference does not teach in any way whatsoever at column 4 lines 71 - 75 thereof that the hopper 200 may be releasably engaged by a support component; this passage is totally silent as to the nature of the support.

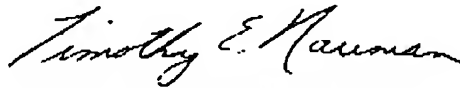
Thus the applicant submits that the cited reference does not teach the conveyance system of amended claims 5 and 19 for conveying a particulate substance from a removable particulate storage component, the conveyance system comprising the therein described interconnect element and support component.

The dependent claims add further patentable recitations to the allowable subject matter of the independent claims from which they depend.

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP



Timothy E. Nauman, Reg. No. 32,283

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